



Fairy tale comes to life

Post youngsters turn actors for 'Rumpelstiltskin'

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Fort Riley Post



Penalty kicks win 'World Cup' on post

Youth soccer players 'camp' on Colyer Manor fields

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Friday, July 22, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 29

Around The Army

Okinawa:

The Pacific Stars and Stripes reported July 20 that Okinawa Gov. Keiichi Inamine made a rare appearance at a protest rally July 19, joining about 9,500 Okinawans to demand that U.S. Army Special Forces training on Camp Hansen cease at once.

The new Range 4 training complex is too close to a residential area and the Okinawa Expressway, the governor said.

No formal protests have been filed with U.S. Forces Japan, according to Col. Victor Warzinski, U.S. Forces Japan spokesman. Range 4 will continue to operate, he said.

For more on this and other U.S. military news in the Pacific and European theaters, visit www.esrripes.com on the Web.

Fort Hood:

The Sentinel reported June 30 that rumors of mass Soldier losses at the post were unfounded.

Maj. Gen. James Simmons, deputy commander of III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas, said an announcement that the 4th Infantry Division would move to Fort Carson, Colo., did not mean Fort Hood would lose thousands of Soldiers or that spouses of deployed Soldiers would be forced to move while the Soldiers were overseas.

Simmons confirmed that the 4th Inf. Div. flag would move but that did not mean Soldiers and families would move.

For more on this story and other Fort Hood news, visit www.militarynews.com /sentinel on the Web.

Hawaii:

The Hawaii Army Weekly reported May 27 that natural resource biologists of the Directorate of Public Works went to Puu Palikea near the Waianae Mountain ridge to protect endangered tree snails and plant species threatened by a brush fire approaching the area.

Efforts of firefighters stopped the blaze about 1,500 meters from the preserve that is home to nearly 70 rare and endangered plant and animal species.

For more on this story and other military news in Hawaii, visit www.25id1.army.mil/haw.asp on the Web.

Alaska:

The Alaska Post reported July 8 that the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, "Flying Dragons" uncased their colors at an activation ceremony June 24 at Fort Wainwright.

The battalion will provide aviation support to U.S. Army Alaska with its UH-60A Black Hawk helicopters.

The battalion of about 150 Soldiers moved to Alaska from Korea as part of the Army's repositioning plan. The unit will grow to about 600 Soldiers when fully manned.

For more on this story and other Alaska news, visit www.usarak.army.mil on the Web.

Initiative promises better homes

Partnership shifts post family housing management to Picerne company

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

The stroke of the pen July 15 guaranteed faster improvements in Fort Riley housing beginning in July 2006.

Post officials and Picerne Military Housing's chief executive

officer signed a partnership agreement that promises replacement of about 1,500 units, renovation of more than 920 others and 32 new houses on post.

The ceremony conducted on the porch of historic Custer House signaled a new chapter in family housing for the Army's Warfighting Center, said Col. John Simpson, U.S. Army Garrison commander.

"Fort Riley housing has been here since 1855, and we are here to start the next chapter in the story of Fort Riley housing. Today Fort Riley will start a new partnership ... to ensure that Soldiers and

their families have the proper quality of life that they justly deserve," he said.

A brighter future for on-post housing comes with the planned change from military to civilian operation of family housing through the Residential Community Initiative. The RCI turns over

management, maintenance and construction of family housing to Picerne Military Housing, the civilian firm awarded a 50-year contract.

The Army has privatized about 60,000 housing units at 26 install-

See Picerne, Page 9

Police call



Post/Heronemus

Spc. Kevin Hubbard (front) of the 995th Maint. Co., Kansas Army National Guard, and Master Sgt. Jerry Stubblefield of the 648th ASG, wrestle an old refrigerator onto a plank so they can scoot it toward the Republican River bank. The two mobilized Soldiers were taking part in a seven-mile river cleanup project organized by the 648th July 16 along the edge of Fort Riley. It took them two hours, with the help of another 995th Maint. Co. Soldier, Staff Sgt. Barry Munger, and two Soldiers operating a five-ton wrecker to pull the refrigerator out of the river and haul it to a trash dump.

Soldiers, others clean up river banks

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

Seven miles of the Republican River look less "trashy" today, thanks to the efforts of some Soldiers and civilians who spent July 16 cleaning up the area.

Among the trash removed were a refrigerator, stove, two clothes dryers and about 50 tires, said Maj. Janice McCall, commanding officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 648th Area Support Group.

The cleanup operation was planned, coordinated and directed by mobilized

648th ASG Soldiers. A couple of their senior noncommissioned officers, Command Sgt. Maj. John Kennedy and Sgt. Maj. Loretta Cox, spotted the trash during a float down the river in March.

Staff Sgt. Christina Carter, Sgt. 1st

See River, Page 2

Post Soldier killed in Iraq

Specialist dies in explosion of vehicle 'bomb'

Staff report

Spc. Jared Douglas Hartley, 22, of Newkirk, Okla., was killed July 15 while on patrol in Taji, Iraq.

He was on a mounted patrol as a turret gunner on an up-armored "Hummer" when his vehicle was struck by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

Hartley was assigned as a light wheeled vehicle mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 125th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

He enlisted in the Army in June 2002.

Hartley had been stationed at Fort Riley since November 2002. He deployed with his unit in February 2005 for his second rotation to Iraq.

The incident is under investigation.

About 3,600 Fort Riley Soldiers are deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This incident brings the number of Fort Riley Soldiers who have died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to 55.



Spc. Jared Hartley

Night belongs to tankers

1st Bn., 13th Armor, patrols combat zone

By Matthew Wester

100th MPAD

TAJI, Iraq — Turbine engines in two tanks come to life with a piercing whine. Plumes of sand rise in the air as the tank treads grind forward.

Tankers of 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, are going to work, doing what they have trained to do from the start of their military careers — patrol a combat zone in their M1A1s.

"Every night is ours," said Sgt. Jonathan Clarkson, an armored crewman for the battalion's Company B. The Soldier from Dayton, Ohio, is a gunner on the trail tank in the patrol.

Clarkson said his crew patrols

for several hours at a time, but the night missions aren't as long as they used to be. "We're out for pretty long missions," he said. "We were out for 72 hours one time."

The tank crews start those long missions with pre-combat checks of the vehicles and weapons systems.

"Prior to every mission, ... the first thing on my mind, of course, is maintenance," said Staff Sgt. Kurt A. Maness, the Co. B tank commander of the trail tank. "We check the weapons, make sure the fire control systems are up, the radios are up and checking everything else in the turret is what is on my mind."

"If you take care of the tank, the tank takes care of you," said Sgt.

1st Class Izzy Barela, a Monticello, Utah, Soldier assigned to the battalion's Company A. He commands the tank that leads the patrol.

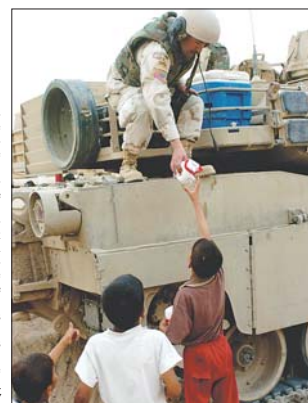
As the tanks rolled out the compound's gate, the crews inside were buzzing with activity.

In the lead tank, the driver listened to instructions from the tank commander as the gunner scanned the road through his sights, looking for anything suspicious. The tank commander processed all the information he could assimilate so he could give instructions to his crew.

The crews have a definite focus when they roll out on a mission.

"Our mission here is to ensure

See Patrol, Page 7



Sgt. 1st Class Izzy Barela, a tank commander for Co. A, 1st Bn., 13th Armor, hands out toys to local children from his M1A1 tank. Barela and his tank crew were patrolling a road near Taji, Iraq. 100th MPAD/Wester





Motorcycle riders must follow rules

Accident rates decrease

By Eric Steggeman
ESU intern

A Soldier entering Fort Riley on his motorcycle was delayed while entering post in June 2005 because he wasn't wearing proper attire.

Current policy requires a reflective strip be attached to the rider's back or backpack, and guards at the access point cautioned him that the orange reflective vest he was wearing didn't conform to the commanding general's policy.

Wear of the band of reflective tape and other apparel requirements for motorcycle riders are spelled out in the commanding general's policy dated March 2005. The policy gives access point personnel authority to deny entry to any person operating a motorbike or all-terrain vehicle and not wearing required equipment.

All riders must wear helmets approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation, fingered gloves, long trousers and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket. Impact or shatter-resistant goggles are required and may not be substituted by windshielding, eyeglasses or sunglasses.

Leather boots are required as well, but footwear that covers and protects the toes and ankles is acceptable.

Soldiers injured in accidents resulting from not wearing their protective equipment may be found "not to be in the line-of-duty," the policy states. The Soldier will be held responsible for any medical or legal fees resulting from the accident.

Paul Inman, installation safety manager, said the costs for the required equipment will fall to the vehicle operators. The proper helmets and reflective garments can be purchased from most motorcycle dealerships and general retailers.

Headphones of any kind are prohibited while operating a motorbike or ATV on post. Motorcycles, motor scooters and mopeds must have two rear view mirrors, one on each side, and a headlight that remains on the entire time the vehicle's engine is running.

The policy requires owners to register their vehicles and pass a rider and operator safety course. Operators that completed their course somewhere other than Fort Riley must contact the Installation Safety Office to verify that their certification meets local training program standards.

"Motorcycle, moped, motor scooter and ATV operation is a high-risk activity," Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, stated in his foreword comments to the policy. "Far too many Soldiers, family members and civilian employees continue to be hurt in preventable accidents," he wrote.

Motorcycle accidents at Fort Riley have reached their lowest count in years. From April 2003 to

Accident stats

April 1 to Sept. 30, 2003:
POV - 4
Motorcycle - 6
ATV/Dirt Bike - 3

Oct. 1, 2003, to Sept. 30, 2004:
POV - 9
Motorcycle - 5 with serious injuries, 6 with minor injuries due to incorrect protective equipment
ATV/Dirt Bike - 1

Oct. 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005:
POV - 9
Motorcycle - 1
ATV/Dirt Bike - 1

September 2004, "over 50 percent of reportable Personally Operated Vehicle accidents involved motorcycles," Inman said. Nine POV accidents have been reported since October 2004 but only one accident involved a motorcycle and one other involved an ATV.

For more information about motorcycle requirements and other safety policies on Fort Riley, call Inman at 239-2514 or visit the Installation Safety Office, Building 407, Pershing Court. Information about training can be obtained by calling the Installation Safety Office at 239-2334.

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Post/Heronemus

Spc. Kevin Hubbard of the 995th Maint. Co., Kansas Army National Guard, mobilized at Fort Riley picks up trash caught in a driftwood jam beneath the Henry Drive bridge over the Republican River July 16. He was taking part in a 7-mile river cleanup project organized by members of the 648th ASG, also mobilized at Fort Riley.

River

continued from page 1

Class Vera Reese and Master Sgt. Sean Beaudette later made a three-hour reconnaissance float along the river with Steve Wahle of the Directorate of Environment and Safety to pinpoint large pieces of trash.

Carter asked military and civilian volunteers to work and arranged for the heavy vehicles needed to support the cleanup. Getting the vehicles was complicated because it seemed everything was being used for training to go to Iraq, Carter said. She eventually went to the 541st Maintenance Battalion and said they were "more than willing" to loan a vehicle.

The Thursday before the Saturday cleanup, two large groups of volunteers pulled out, Carter said, "so I called K-State begging for people to help. I got some willing volunteers there, and the Kansas Canoe Association called me when they heard about it and sent two volunteers."

About 35 people walked the banks and paddled canoes along the river from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Some worked the morning at pinpointed trash areas along the stretch of river from the Grant Avenue bridge in Junction City to the Kansas Highway 18 bridge. They picked up trash easy to carry to drop off points on the Fort Riley side of the riverbank or loaded heavier trash into five-ton trucks to be hauled away. McCall said the effort filled a five-ton truck with discarded trash.

For some of the trash pickers, the morning wasn't an easy canoe trip down the river. Three Soldiers spent more than two hours and needed the help of a five-ton

Participants

648th Area Support Group
995th Maintenance Company, Kansas Army National Guard
35th Area Support Group from Missouri
Streamlink, a water resource literacy program based in Lawrence, Kan.
Kansas State University Students for Environment Action
Kansas Canoe Association
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

wrecker's cable and hook to move a partially submerged refrigerator from behind a mountain of log-jammed driftwood beneath the Henry Drive bridge on post and up a steep bank to a spot where it could be loaded onto a truck and hauled away.

The 648th ASG is based in St. Louis, Mo. It mobilized at Fort Riley to help other mobilized Army Reserve and National Guard units prepare for deployment.

McCall said the group's Soldiers often take part in community service activities.

A \$1,300 grant from the National Environmental Education and Learning Foundation provided funds to rent canoes and pay for gloves and bags, McCall said.

Protective equipment

Helmet approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation fastened securely to chin

Impact or shatter-resistant goggles or a full-face visor attached to helmet

Full-fingered gloves
Long trousers (no light fabrics)

Long-sleeved shirts or jackets

Leather boots or shoes that protect ankles

Reflective Vest/Garment with reflective tape strip

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Courts martial convict four Soldiers at Fort Riley

SJA Office

The government tried the following courts martial cases at Fort Riley between June 24 and July 13, with the following results:

Spec. Grant C. Evans of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, was tried on June 24 and convicted of one charge, one specification of Article 86 (absence without leave); one charge, one specification of

Article 107 (false official statement); and one charge, three specifications of Article 112a (wrongful use of marijuana).

He was sentenced to be reduced to the rank of private (E-1), total forfeiture of pay and allowances, seven months of confinement and a bad conduct discharge.

Pvt. David T. Nguyen of the 70th Engineer Battalion was tried

on July 8 and convicted of one charge, one specification of Article 85 (desertion with intent to shirk important service); one charge, one specification of Article 86 (failure to go to appointed place of duty); one charge, one specification of Article 87 (missing movement by design to Iraq); and one charge, one specification of Article 112a (wrongful use of marijuana).

He was sentenced to be

reduced to the rank of private (E-1), total forfeiture of pay and allowances, 24 months of confinement and a dishonorable discharge.

Pvt. 1st Class Timothy L. Drake of the 125th Forward Support Battalion was tried on July 11 and convicted of one charge, three specifications of Article 87 (missing movement by design to Iraq), and one charge, three specifica-

tions of Article 90 (disobeying a superior commissioned officer).

He was sentenced to be reduced to the rank of private (E-1), total forfeiture of pay and allowances, 25 months of confinement and a dishonorable discharge.

Pvt. 1st Class Mark W. Luper of the 70th Engineer Battalion was tried on July 11 and convicted of one charge, three specifica-

tions of Article 86 (absence without leave); one charge, one specification of Article 90 (disobeying a superior commissioned officer);

and one charge, two specifications of Article 112a (wrongful use of marijuana).

He was sentenced to be reduced to the rank of private (E-1), total forfeiture of pay and allowances, 14 months of confinement and a bad conduct discharge.

Post news in brief

Traffic lanes to be blocked

The outer lanes of Appenines Drive and a short stretch of Trooper Drive on Custer Hill will be blocked between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. July 25-26 and from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. July 27.

Military Police Control Points at Campbell Hill Road and Huebner Road and Huebner Road and the Camp Funston Buffalo Soldier overpass will stop traffic when needed.

Units will be driving tanks along these routes, sometimes against traffic, during the specified times.

Advisory center offers class

The three-hour Army Resume Builder class offered by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has proven to be very popular. Those interested in improving their knowledge of the Army's Resume Builder and improving their Army resume can sign up for the class by calling the CPAC at 239-6004 or by visiting Building 319 during regular business hours.

The next class is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 19.

Council seeks shopping ideas

The Army and Air Force Exchange System-Defense Commissary Agency council meeting will be at 2 p.m. July 28 at the Sports Page on Custer Hill. These meetings take place once a month. The purpose of the meetings is to bring to light any changes and new programs and serves as a basic source of information on what is going on at the commissary and in AAFES.

Representatives of both agencies attend the meetings and all interested patrons may attend. The council seeks suggestions, feedback and ideas customers have so that both agencies can better serve their needs.

For more information, call Debbie Julian, exchange business manager for AAFES at 784-4094 or Christine Harlan, public affairs representative for AAFES at 784-4439.

Used oil must go to center

Post residents are reminded to place used motor oil and antifreeze in proper containers and take them to the Automotive Skills Center, 7753 Appenines Drive on Custer Hill, or the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Environmental Waste Management Center in Building 1945, Camp Funston.

It is illegal to throw used oil and antifreeze into refuse dumpsters or pour them down storm drains.

For more information, call the Automotive Skills Center at 239-9764 or 239-4028, the waste facility at 239-6797 or Jill Dalton at 239-2385.

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Commentary

Friday, July 22, 2005

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

If you could send one thing to Soldiers overseas, what would it be and why?



"Probably barbecued ribs, because my son-in-law is begging for them now."

Linda Battle
Civilian Hair Stylist
Home: Manhattan, Kan.



"A picture of their family and friends, because over in Iraq ... that's what keeps you going, the thoughts of your family and friends back home."

1st Lt. Gustavo Cabeaga
Battery D, 1st Bn., 5th FA
Home: Naples, Fla.



"Possibly one of those pre-paid cell phones ... you know, get back in touch with his family, speak with people."

Jeremiah Evans
Home: Phoenix, Ariz.



"A box with a calling card, phone number and mailing address so that way they can write or call if they need someone to talk to if they have no family or friends to talk to."

Connie Murphy
Home: Junction City, Kan.



"It would be the Bible, because I'm a Christian, and I believe that's exactly what they need over there."

Ryan Nelson
Home: Junction City, Kan.

Next week's question:

What does freedom mean to you?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

By Issac Westbrook
1st Bn., 13th Armor

How do I even begin to illustrate the emotions attached to my time in the military? I want so bad to tell America what I have learned through my military service. The good times, bad times and hard times. The tears I have shed and the times I felt my heart would burst with pride. I want America to know a little of what it is like for me to serve our country.

I am a sergeant in the U.S. Army, fighting the war on terror in Iraq. Before I return I will have spent two years of my five-year enlistment fighting this war. I tell you straight up, war is hell. I don't like being away from my wife and children. I don't like the stress this war puts on my wife. The constant fear that she will be single mother.

I hate war, but through war I have gained a profound respect for war. War has taught me an invaluable lesson: Without war we would be slaves.

Our quest for freedom started in Europe in the 15th century. Men and women who did not have the means to fight a war against the tyrants of their day fled to the "New World." These brave men and women scratched a home out of a wilderness. A beautiful land. A free land.

Our ancestors resolved to never flee again. This was their home. Their land. Our ancestors fought a war from which we have benefited for centuries. Many Americans died, were shot and killed in battle or

starved to death in the freezing mud at Valley Forge. But the blessings that sprang forth from their sacrifices are without number. No one can deny that the War of Independence was a just war, a war that needed to be fought.

There has not been a conventional war on our home soil for so long that I believe the majority of Americans do not understand what war is all about. War is about standing up to tyrants. War is just a fight with many participants.

Wars are fought in America every day. They are small and not thought of as wars, but they are. When a man comes into your home and molests your family, that man is a tyrant and a terrorist. He seeks to exercise power over you and take away your freedom. He seeks to control you by force and fear.

There are four freedoms that every American should enjoy: Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press and, most important and most easily taken away, freedom from fear.

A man does not start a war by invading your home. A war is only started if you stand up and fight. Most Americans never fight this war and rightly so. It is not given to them to fight it. Personal wars within our country are given to the men and women in uniform: Our peace officers, the police. They fight against tyrants who seek to oppress and destroy our peace. They take casualties protecting us every day. How often has a citizen stopped and thanked an officer in uniform for the service he or she gives and

the risks they take every day? My service in the Army has taught me about war. Why it exists and why it must. War can easily be eliminated. We just have to submit to those who seek for power. We just have to not fight. Wars are only started when the second party stands up and says, "No, I won't let you do that," when a common man stands up and says, "No, I won't let you harm my family." Once a war has begun, one will win and one will lose.

To me, the red on our nation's flag stands not for courage but for blood, the crimson red blood that has been shed in our continued fight against tyranny. Our fight that began in 1776 continues today. Nobody wants to be a slave. Maybe that is why I get so confused when I see anti-war demonstrations. I think, "Do they know what they are protesting?" In truth, they protest against freedom because without war we would all be slaves.

The war in Iraq was not about weapons of mass destruction. One single American killed by terrorists is too many. We lost nearly 3,000 to terrorists. Must we wait till we lose an entire city to take action?

We lost two Soldiers the other day, one American and one Iraqi. The Iraqi was not an enlisted soldier. He had signed no contract. Yet every day he put himself in the same danger as us. He had to wear a mask so the insurgents would not recognize him, follow him home and kill him.

His father told him repeatedly to not work for the Americans. That it would get him killed. His

reply was, "I will not stop being an interpreter because I am making a difference."

His job did take his life, but he did make a difference. Every person that stands his or her ground against a tyrant runs the risk of getting beaten down by that tyrant. But, if there are enough of us willing to face death and danger, we cannot fail.

The American Soldier we lost was from a family with a history of service to our country. His grandfather was a retired sergeant major and his father was a retired lieutenant colonel. As did his predecessors, he did his part. Regrettably, more was required of him than of his ancestors.

His blood is now part of our flag. Perhaps tomorrow my blood will be added to his.

I call upon all our old men to support us in our cause by teaching selfless service to our youth. I call upon our women to teach their children that freedom is worth fighting for. Teach them that, if good men stop fighting, freedom will be lost.

I call upon all our young men to set aside their selfishness and fear, take hold of the banner of freedom and join me in the ranks of our Army as we fight terrorist and tyrants who seek to destroy our freedom.

I do not ask that you do 20 years and make a career of the Army. Donate just three or four years of yourself. I promise you that the effects of your service will give you a pride in your country that you have never known. Our cause is just.

Ask yourself: Will we be free in 20 years if terrorism is not defeated?

Progress in Iraq

U.S. commander: Forces improving

Editor's note: The following comments were made by Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, commander of Task Force Liberty and the New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division, and reported in an American Forces Press Service story written by Jim Garamone July 15.

Iraqi forces are shouldering more of the security burden in North-central Iraq. Our work is protecting the process that will allow Iraqis to develop their new government and build their own sustainable security forces.

The Iraqi contribution is large and getting larger and more capable. There are 50,000 members of the Iraqi army, border patrol and police services in the area.

In recent months, I have seen the contribution of our Iraqi army partners rise dramatically. Iraqi units now conduct over half of the counterinsurgency fight. They do this either independently or jointly with our Soldiers.

The Iraqi Ministry of Defense is establishing a clear chain of command in advance of Iraqis taking over the total security burden. North-central Iraq has two

Iraqi army division headquarters with five army brigades.

Earlier this year, Iraqi units took over security responsibility for Kirkuk. Coalition units will continue to provide command and control and logistics support for the units until the Iraqi divisions become effective.

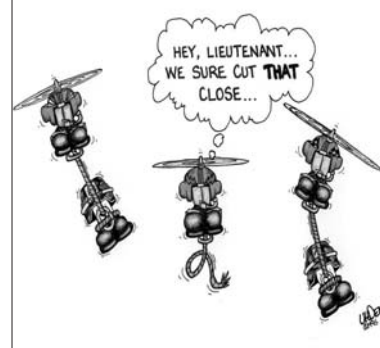
The Iraqis are doing more by themselves. For example, there was a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device that was parked in Kirkuk in a very busy market area. Citizens saw the car parked. They thought it was strange. They reported it to the local police that are there in Kirkuk on the street.

The police reacted to that, cordoned off the area, brought in their own explosive ordnance disposal team, had the car inspected and, sure enough, it was rigged for explosion. They defused it, they got rid of the vehicle-borne IED, and they reported it out to their media.

Not one Coalition Soldier took part in the mission.

Our assessment is that the Iraqi security forces are greatly improved and are striving to get better every day.

Grunt By Wayne Uhden



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What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas):





Post/Blackmon
First Sgt. Billy Counts and Capt. Mike Bromund, company commander, cut into the 116th MP Co. cake following the unit's activation ceremony July 19 at King Field House.

116th MP Company activates on post

Staff report

A new company joined the 924th Military Police Battalion July 19 during activation ceremonies at King Field House.

At full strength, the 116th Military Police Company will have about 170 Soldiers assigned.

Capt. Mike Bromund, company commander, said, "it is great to be a part of something new" and that he was "anxious to get down to business."

The 116th MP Co. will consist of a headquarters section, operations section and three platoons.

Known as the "Roughnecks,"

their mission will be to deploy and conduct military police combat support operations to worldwide contingency operations.

On a daily basis, the unit will train and provide law, order and force protection for the Fort Riley community.

The Army is activating several new units as part of the Army's force structure changes to fight the Global War on Terrorism.

The Army recognizes a need for more Military Police and trainers of police forces so that combat arms units can conduct their missions better.

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

Lt. Col. Howard Merritt grasped the reins of the 541st Maintenance Battalion during a change of command ceremony on Fort Riley July 14, succeeding Lt. Col. M. Curt Higdon.

Higdon had commanded the 541st Maint. Bn. since June 2003. As commander, he led the battalion's Soldiers during a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Before assuming command of the 541st Maint. Bn., Merritt was chief of the Troop Support and Munitions Branch in U.S. Forces Command G4.

Merritt graduated from Salisbury State University and entered active duty in 1986.

After completing the chemical officer basic course, he was assigned to Fort Stewart, Ga., where he served as chemical offi-

cer for the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor, and later as an armor platoon leader.

Merritt then transferred to the Ordnance Corps and served as shop officer for the 24th Forward Support Battalion.

He later served as the Division Class IX accountable officer during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Merritt moved from the desert to Kitzingen, Germany, to become the maintenance manager for the

Division Material Management Center before being selected to command Company B, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion.

Merritt returned to the United States to serve as executive officer for the commandant of the Ordnance Center and Schools, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

He then returned to Germany to serve as support operation officer in the 201st Forward Support Battalion.

After completing Command

and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Merritt served as supply and services officer for the Coalition forces' Land Component Command C4 during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Merritt's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medal and two Army Achievement Medals.

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Sig Pg: Bluesgrass Festival





Post news in brief

Irwin offers eye appointments

Military family members and military retirees can schedule optometry appointments at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

To schedule an appointment, call 239-DOCS of (888) 239-3627.

Civilians must attend training

All civilian employees are required to receive anti-terrorism awareness training on an annual basis. Initial training must be conducted in person with a trained anti-terrorism Officer. Refresher training can be fulfilled by attending a session with a certified AI trainer or on-line at www.at-awareness.org (log-in "aware").

Anti-terrorism training is conducted at 9 a.m. every Thursday in the Patton Hall auditorium, 200 Henry Avenue.

The training is scheduled to run until 10:30 a.m. and is conducted as part of the in-processing for new and mobilizing Soldiers.

DA civilian employees need to attend this training to meet the requirements for their initial AI training.

Attendees will receive a training data sheet certificate. DA civilians must provide a copy of their training certificate to their activity training POC for input in their personnel record.

As the population increases on Fort Riley, auditorium seating will become more difficult.

Patton Hall's auditorium seating can accommodate about 250 people, with about 30 to 50 Soldiers attending each week.

Contact Capt. Rob Ruskiewicz, at 239-6044 Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon to verify seating availability.



100th MPAD/Wester

Sgt. 1st Class Izzy Barela, a tank commander for Co. A, 1st Bn., 13th Armor Regt., 3rd Bde., 1st Armored Div., and a Monticello, Utah, native, scans for insurgent activity from the hatch of an M1A1 Abrams tank. Barela said his two main objectives on a patrol are protecting Coalition forces' convoys and finding improvised explosive devices.

Patrol continued from page 1

our zone of the main supply route stays clear," said 1st Sgt. Wayne A. Blunden, Co. A first sergeant and a native of Laconia, N.H.

He said thousands of vehicles pass through the zone his tank crews help secure.

Barela said his two main patrol objectives are protecting Coalition forces' convoys and finding improvised explosive devices.

His crew has found many IEDs in the time they have been patrolling in Iraq.

"After the first 20, I stopped counting," he said. "We just keep finding them. That's what we get paid to do."

Barela understands how important it is to find roadside bombs.

"Any time you can take an IED off the streets, it has a big impact," Barela said. "That's another convoy that can go by with no one getting injured."

"We tend to find (IEDs) before they get a chance go off," Blunden said. Both crews have enough

experience in the area to know what should be on the road and what shouldn't.

"After the first four or five missions out, we get the road memorized," Maness said. "We can pick up on things that look out of place."

It takes teamwork for a tank crew to work together effectively.

The crew in the trail tank has been together since November and trained together at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., before deploying to Iraq.

For Maness, it wasn't just the tank crew that was very familiar to him. The tank was familiar, too. When he arrived in Iraq, he was assigned the same tank he had manned while serving a one-year tour in South Korea.

On patrol, the lead tank took up a position to observe the road, and a crowd of local children swarmed around it.

The crewmembers, always prepared for combat, were prepared

for the chance to connect with the community, too. A few of the Soldiers grabbed a box of stuffed animals and soccer balls and took turns handing the treats to the kids, while the other Soldiers continued to scan the road.

Soon, the tanks pulled out and continued down the highway. The tank crews were busy again.

"The majority of missions are on 'Humvees,' so this is an opportunity to be on our tanks," Maness said.

"When I'm on the road and I've got the wind in my face, it makes me remember what I came in (the Army) for. Being on a 'Humvee' is fun; it's quick, but being on a tank, you know that power is there," he said. "There is no feeling like it in the world."

Pharmacy removes three medications

Tricare offers some options

By Jan Clark

IACH

Irwin Army Community Hospital budgetary constraints and manufacturers' price increases has forced IACH's Pharmacy to remove three medications from its formulary now through Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

One is Cetirizine (Zyrtec(r)), a common allergy medication. The pharmacy will continue to stock Loratadine (Claritin(r)) for general use. The change includes tablet and syrup formulations.

The second is Prevacid(r) (Lansoprazole), a medication used to treat or prevent ulcers.

Although they are not exactly the same, two medications to treat those conditions will remain on IACH's formulary. They are generic Prilosec(r) and Rabepazole (Aciphex(r)). A care provider's permission is required for a patient to change from Prevacid(r) to Prilosec(r) or Aciphex(r).

The third medication is Lexapro(r) (Escitalopram), an antidepressant. IACH will have the generic drug Celexa(r) (Citalopram), on-hand. However, the two drugs are not generically equivalent and a care provider's permission will be required to change from Lexapro(r) to Citalopram.

Active refills for medications being removed from the formulary will be issued for a maximum 14-day supply. All remaining refills for these three prescription medications will be cancelled. Patients should contact their civilian provider for a replacement

prescription.

Replacement prescriptions brought to IACH to be filled will be treated as new prescriptions.

Tricare Mail Order Pharmacy is an option for those patients not able to change their prescriptions. Patrons must register for TMOP and a new handwritten prescription is required for initial processing.

A co-pay is required for dependents and retirees using Tricare. Prevacid(r), Zyrtec(r) and Lexapro(r) are brand names, so the co-pay is \$9 for a 90-day supply.

Active duty members do not have any associated co-payment. Active duty members should contact an Outpatient Pharmacy staff member for the TMOP beneficiary guide to register. The TMOP Web site is found at www.express-scripts.com.

Tricare Retail Network pharmacies in the area offer another option for those patients not able to change their prescriptions. The co-pay of \$9 is applicable, but it buys only a 30-day supply. Patrons can choose the pharmacy of their choice and have the civilian pharmacist call IACH Outpatient Pharmacy at (785) 239-7619 to transfer the prescription.

For more information, call the pharmacy at 239-7411.

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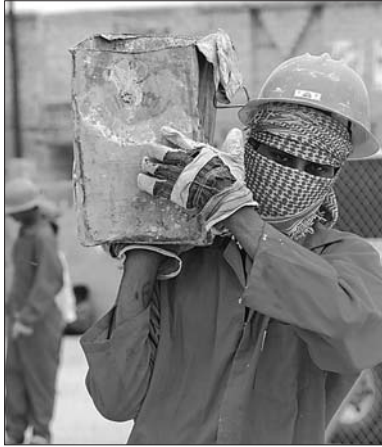
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Corps of Engineers helps Iraq rebuild

New, refurbished health clinics weapon of choice for fighting children's mortality rate



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Weiner
A construction worker brings mixed gypsum to pour into the foundation base on a construction site in Nasiriyah, Iraq. The project, which will become a primary health care center, is one of 60 such clinics being built in southern Iraq. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South is providing quality assurance on the project.

By BJ Weiner
Special to AFPS

TALLIL, Iraq, July 7, 2005 – With its mortality rate for children under 5 a staggering 14.2 percent and 12.8 percent for children under 12 months old, Iraq needs much more than a temporary solution to its crippling dilemma.

In response to that dilemma, 150 new primary health care facilities of three different types are being built, with 60 of them planned for southern Iraq.

Iraqi child mortality figures have risen sharply to their present levels since 1991, according to information provided by the United Nations Children's Fund.

The new medical facilities are being built with the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South District and the Project and Contracting Office, according to Juan Vargas, PCO health program manager.

"This project was coordinated at the Ministry of Health in Baghdad," Vargas said. "Project sites were based on demographics and needs. The ministry decided which type of clinic they wanted at each location."

The \$80 million program for the 60 southern clinics does not include administrative costs, said Dr. Shah Alam, GRS program manager. The figure does include program and medical equipment

costs.

"The nice thing about it is there is a real need for the clinic program, and it feels good to know that something good is coming to the people," he said.

Each clinic would cost about \$800,000 to build, and another \$500,000 in medical equipment costs, bringing the total package for each clinic to \$1.4 to \$1.5 million.

Vargas explained that three types of clinics were designed, and that all 150 would fit into one of the three categories.

Type A, he said, offers basic care. Type B has teaching facilities with classrooms for doctors. Type C clinics are geared more toward maternity and emergency needs.

"The designs were planned and approved by the ministry and the PCO," he said.

"They were finalized by the end of 2004. Site assessments began in November of that year based on a list provided by the MOH. Construction on the first

clinic began in December, and incrementally we have started all of them," he said.

"I want to stress that we have been working with the communities," Alam said. "They have been supporting us because they want to see health care clinics being built. That is why, when we face problems, we have always found that the neighbors of the site in the area are very helpful."

He added that in some cases the directors general solved the issue in a matter of days because they recognized how badly the clinics are needed.

Each contract was developed and based on U.S. practices and planning, Vargas said, but those standards are adjusted because of each site. "We are also overcoming construction materials testing delays," he said. "So we are on the right track now that we have them started."

Another problem that has surfaced concerns the Iraqis and the lack of control they think they have over construction, Alam

said. However, Iraqis are always welcome at the site, and if they find inconsistencies, they can bring them to the attention of the GRS resident engineer.

"The resident engineer has contractual authority and can get the contractor to correct the problem," Alam said. He added that in addition to the clinics, state-of-the-art medical equipment and training classes on using the equipment are being provided.

"Every governorate we go to and everyone we have spoken with has always been receptive and wonderful to work with," Alam said.

"And any help we have needed they have gone out of their way, in some cases giving us permission to go forward with construction with the understanding that the issue could and would be solved. We have made many good friends and associates," he said.

BJ Weiner is assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Southern District.

RICK JOHNSON
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3x4 Dr. Johnson

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Post/Heronemus
John Picerne (right), president and chief executive officer of Picerne Military Housing, and Col. John Simpson, U.S. Army Garrison commander at Fort Riley, prepare to sign a Residential Communities Initiative agreement that will turn over management of family housing at Fort Riley to Picerne. Witnessing the signing are Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy (left), commanding general of the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley and U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.)

Picerne continued from page 1

lations and will add about 12,000 more housing units at eight more installations, including Fort Riley, by July 2006, Simpson said.

"In these 25 projects on 34 installations, the Army will leverage \$670 million of appropriations and obtain \$9.3 billion in private construction in the projects' initial construction periods," he said.

RCI brings a proven civilian partner to the housing business on post. Picerne Military Housing already manages housing at four installations: Fort Meade, Md.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Rucker, Ala.; and Fort Polk, La. Fort Riley will transfer its 3,052 units to Picerne in July 2006.

In doing so, "the Army will invest \$67 million and our partner will spend an initial \$409 million in construction during the first 10 years of the project," Simpson said.

Many of Fort Riley's family housing units are historical limestone and brick buildings. Remodeling of such buildings should pose no problem for Picerne, said Geoffrey Prosch, the principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment.

"Picerne are masters at renovating historical properties, so I think they will take these solid foundations and bring 21st century technology into these homes so they'll last another 120 years," he said.

One of the main advantages of Fort Riley entering into the 50-year RCI partnership is that Picerne can raise money for housing construction about twice as fast as the Army can, said John



Post/Heronemus
John Picerne, president and CEO of Picerne Military Housing, ties balloons to the baby carrier holding Logan Whitmore, a 7-week-old resident of post housing.

Picerne, president and chief executive officer of Picerne Military Housing.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, agreed. "Fort Riley has some of the best military housing in the Army already, but the fact is we could never afford to get to the standards our families really deserve, particularly when you consider the war fight the last three years and the fact as far as we can look forward this war fight is going to continue," he said.

"(Through the RCI) we're

bringing in world class industry ... and we know that you're going to be able to do things here that we could not do for ourselves," Hardy told Picerne.

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) said the signing of the RCI agreement ensures that the post's Soldiers and families will have the newest and most modern housing in the Army. "RCI will virtually eliminate all substandard military housing in the Army," he said.

Picerne said he was amazed by the beauty and history of Fort Riley the first time he drove onto post. "Our job here is not to change that. Our job here is to work with this great history and just to try to make it a little better," he said.

To do that, Picerne said his company would employ about 150 people at Fort Riley. "Over the course of the next six to 12 months, we will be meeting with representatives of the federal government" to get a development plan approved, Picerne explained.

"We take three to six months to build up the team and get them instituted at Fort Riley," he added.

Picerne Military Housing's RCI mission is more than bricks and mortar, its chief executive officer said. "We are not just about construction. We are not just about development and putting new roads in. We are about taking care of families."

The company has a dedicated department of family services specialists to work with Soldiers and their families and state and local government agencies to make sure those families are getting full benefit of the programs they are qualified for.

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Civilians earn service award

Lapel pin denotes Iraq duty

By Bernard Tate
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Combat Pin for Civilian Service may be the Army's first war-zone recognition award for civilians.

The Gulf Region Division of the Army's Corps of Engineers began giving civilians the pin at ceremonies in Baghdad this spring.

Civilians have supported Soldiers on America's battlefields all the way back to the camp followers of the Revolutionary War and Molly Pitcher's historic turn with her husband's artillery crew.

But Iraq is different. There, civilian volunteers from the Army Corps of Engineers wear the same uniform, endure the same heat, eat the same dust, duck the same mortar rounds, ride the same vehicles, run the same gauntlet between the Green Zone and the Baghdad Airport and travel in the same Red Zones as the Soldiers they support. Some have been shot at by snipers, caught in firefights and injured by roadside bombs.

Until the Corps authorized the award, there was nothing to honor civilians like the ribbons or patches that distinguish Soldiers who serve in war zones.

"The idea was that Corps employees who receive the pin would wear it at work in the United States," said Kelly Brown, deputy director of programs in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. Brown, who recently returned from duty in Iraq, developed the idea as a morale-booster for civilians.

"When you see the pin, you know the person volunteered in Iraq and that you share similar experiences. Those without the pin might question the wearer, who could then share their experi-

ences," Kelly said. "It'll give those considering an assignment in Iraq information they might not otherwise receive."

Corps employees serving in Iraq for more than 60 days will receive the award, which comes with a certificate. Future plans include retroactively awarding the pin to Corps civilians who volunteered in Iraq.

The pin is a miniature version of the Gulf Region Division coin and logo designed by Jan Fitzgerald, an artist with the Visual Information Branch of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity.

The lapel pin is not authorized for wear on the Desert Combat Uniform but may be worn with any civilian clothing.

Kelly came up with the idea for the lapel pin while attending a town hall meeting in

Iraq when Brig. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Gulf Region Division commander, mentioned he was looking for morale-boosting ideas. Bostick was responsive to Kelly's idea and passed it onto Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Gutierrez, the division's command sergeant major, to implement.

"Army regulations and policies do not authorize the wear of the combat patch by our dedicated civilians," Gutierrez said. "Many of our civilians served in combat in the past and now proudly wear the uniform again as they serve our country and the Iraqi people."

Gutierrez said it was extremely difficult to ask civilians in uniform to remove their combat patches.

"I could feel their disappointment as they graciously complied and stripped the one item of clothing that linked them to their experiences and former units," he said.

"As an alternative, Kelly's idea replaces the combat patch and recognizes the wartime service of our civilians."



Post/Heronemus
Lt. Col. Michael Apodaca (left) and Col. Anthony Zabek (center, incoming and outgoing Fort Riley provost marshal, respectively; and Col. John Simpson, U.S. Army Garrison commander at Fort Riley, finish inspecting law enforcement Soldiers and other units taking part in the 924th MP Bn. change of command ceremony July 14 at Cavalry Parade Field. The post provost marshal also commands the 924th MP Bn. The official party rode in a World War II vintage half-track from the U.S. Cavalry Museum while inspecting the troops.

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New 'top cop' assumes post

Zabek reassigned to Hawaii

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fort Riley's top law enforcement badge was pinned on Lt. Col. Michael Apodaca July 14 as part of a change of command ceremony on Cavalry Parade Field.

The post's new provost marshal assumed command of the 924th Military Police Battalion and the fort's combined law enforcement personnel from newly promoted Col. Anthony Zabek, whose next assignment takes his family to Hawaii.

He will become deputy commander for readiness for the 9th Regional Readiness Command at Fort Shafter.

The post's law enforcement organization contains active duty and reserve component military, Department of the Army police officers and contracted AKAL security officers.

Soldiers and DA police officers conduct all law enforcement missions at Fort Riley and the AKAL security officers provide security at some access points.

Apodaca comes to Fort Riley from an assignment as deputy chief of the Antiterrorism Division in the European Command's Plans and Operation Center.

Apodaca's previous assignments included positions as commander of the 630th Military Company in Bamberg, Germany; provost marshal for the 279th Base Support Battalion in Bamberg; executive officer of the Fort

Campbell Criminal Investigations Division; and chief of the Command Demonstration Team of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency at Bethesda, Md.

The new post provost marshal told those gathered for the change of command ceremony that he was honored to join the distinguished military police battalion. He said he looked forward to the privilege of commanding the battalion and looked forward with confidence and enthusiasm to the many challenges that lie ahead.

Zabek praised the military policemen he had commanded for two years through increased security measures requiring more access control, the addition of contracted civilian security officers, augmentation of post law enforcement resources by mobilized Army Reserve and National Guard units and addition of DA police officers to the daily law enforcement mission.

"You have performed near miracles Your professionalism, dedication and display of the warrior ethos is beyond compare," he told them.

"You have the best MP battalion in FORSCOM (Forces Command)," he told the incoming provost marshal, "and there is no doubt you will make it even better."



Iraqi, Coalition forces thwart attacks, discover weapons

Coalition forces captured terrorists and thwarted attacks, discovered a weapons cache and assisted injured worshippers in and around Baghdad July 10.

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers conducted a precision raid against a terrorist safe-house just west of Abu Ghraib that day. Two of the 10 house occupants were identified as specifically targeted terrorists and were taken into custody for questioning.

"Today we took two known terrorists off the street and prevented another possible terrorist attack before it could even get off the ground," said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, a Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. "Aggressive, offensive operations by Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces are taking the fight directly to the insurgents and degrading their capabilities all across Iraq."

Car leads patrol to explosives

During a routine patrol in the Ameriyah District that same day, Iraqi and Coalition Forces noticed a black BMW parked in the driveway of a house that was typically unoccupied. Soldiers searched the house and found a bag of raw C-4 plastic explosives and four other containers believed to be filled with explosives.

Also hidden in the house were 20 hand grenades, one machine gun, a sniper rifle, an AK-47 assault rifle, a loaded 9mm pistol with a silencer, and 500 to 700 rounds of ammunition. A team of explosives experts safely removed the munitions.

"It was a joint Iraqi and U.S. patrol. The Iraqi Soldiers took the lead," said Capt. Mike Benoit of 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry. "They were aggressive and used their insight, which led us to the cache."

Citizen reports planned attack

An East Baghdad resident alerted Iraqi Soldiers that a terrorist was preparing to fire a rocket at around 8:30 a.m. July 10.

Coalition Soldiers responded immediately and cordoned off the suspected site. After searching the area, the Iraqi Soldiers discovered the rocket ready to be fired from an improvised launcher and safely disarmed the rocket launcher and took it back to their base. The terrorists were not seen or captured.

"The terrorists must have gotten scared by our presence. If he would have fired the rocket while we were in the area, he would have been captured by us," said an Iraqi Soldier.

"The capture of the rocket before it was fired probably saved the lives of numerous civilians. The terrorists often miss their intended target, causing death and destruction to innocent civilians," he said.

Task force responds to car bomb

Iraqi police officers and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers responded to a car bomb attack against a mosque in south Baghdad by securing the area around the shrine and evacuating injured worshippers to a local hospital.

The blast occurred at 10:30 p.m. July 10 and injured 15 people, including at least one child.

"Iraqi insurgents and foreign fighters have nothing positive to offer Iraq," said Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, a Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. "They deliberately choose to strike civilian targets to maximize the number of dead and wounded. The violence of the insurgents steals from all Iraqis the chance for employment, prosperity and to worship peacefully."

Editor's note: These news items were compiled for news releases from the Department of Defense's American Forces Press Service and Army News Service.



RILEY CO. FAIRBOARD
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48th BCT pours water on Iraq

By Tracy Smith
Special to AFPS

YUSUFYIAH, Iraq — Civil affairs Soldiers of 24th Infantry Division (Mech) visited Yusufiyah Pumping Station No. 1 in Yusufiyah, Iraq, on July 4 to follow up on the progress of military engineering efforts to give the people in that region more independence.

Thousands of families can benefit from the water supplied by the Yusufiyah pumping station. As a predominantly farming region, the need for water factors greatly into the community's ability to survive on its own.

Servicing a vital irrigation reservoir, the pumping station feeds from the only abundant water source, the Tigris River. Keeping the pumping station operational has been challenging.

The 48th Brigade Combat Team's civil affairs team has been working with Iraq's Ministry of Electricity, said Lt. Col. Scott Carter, the combat team's civil affairs officer. "The goal is to have 12 hours of power a day. But because of the necessity for rolling blackouts, the down-time puts significant demands on the pumping system."

The blackouts are mandatory so the electrical infrastructure can be re-worked to give consistent service throughout Iraq.

An apricot farmer who lives 25 kilometers away from the pumping station and the Tigris, Abou Hamid felt no one had previously taken an interest in the region's situation. He said he appreciates the caring of the military and the 48th BCT Soldiers have shown to the people of Iraq. "We are very proud and very thankful for the U.S. military's help," Hamid said

through a translator.

"I see the situation getting better," he added.

Initial requests for blackout exceptions were for 6 a.m. through 6 p.m. This allows farmers to get and store any resources they may need during the day.

Initial surveys indicated 12 pumps are needed to supply the region; however, only eight are operational when full electrical power is available. Generators can supplement the shortfall of power, but the antiquated generators the station uses are hard to repair and keep running.

Electrical wiring allows no more than eight pumps to operate at one time. A new generator has been delivered to the site, and the civil affairs team has arranged for two more to be delivered by mid-July to help supplement existing power.

In the meantime, officials have let some villagers set up private pumping systems.

Adb Allah Uman and his cousin, Hashim Yousif Salah, manage their family's farm and set up such a system. "We do not want to (impede) the pumps' ability to filter to other areas," Uman said. "Because our farming area is large and so close to the river, this does not interfere with our neighbors' ability to appreciate the irrigation waters."

The region's arid conditions won't let a farm sustain for more than two weeks without water.

Hamid said he thanks the Americans "for everything. My dream is to one day to visit your country and repay you for all of your kindness, God willing," he said.

Army Spc. Tracy Smith is assigned to the 48th BCT Public Affairs Office.



48th BCT/Smith

The Tigris River is the 'lifeblood' of the Arab J'Bour village and other rural farming communities in Yusufiyah, Iraq. 48th brigade combat team civil affairs Soldiers have been working with the people of this arid region to siphon water into the canal channel, which will reach thousands of acres of parched farmland.

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Military equestrian trainer Ron Roller (left) coaches Spe. Nathan Haines, a trooper with the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, on handling Pat and Jane, the new mule team the exhibition unit will use while performing at post and public functions.

Post/
Heronemus



Long-eared recruits picked for mission

Unit seeks military names for new mules Pat, Jane

Morgan Hanson

KSU intern

Two new recruits arrived at Fort Riley July 4 in a 16-foot aluminum stock trailer.

The pair, Pat and Jane, arrived after an 800-mile trip from Tennessee to join the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

The 3-year-old mules were chosen from six pairs. Ron Roller, civilian trainer for the mounted unit, traveled to Tennessee in June to pick the pair.

"I chose them for their size, temperament, color, age and, most importantly, the training they had received," Roller said.

The two were let loose in the post's Buffalo Corral just after noon July 5. The black mules familiarized themselves with their new by galloping and trotting around the corral, adding a sporadic jump when the urge struck them.

They galloped the entire perimeter of the stone-walled pasture before settling down for some grazing in the sun at the north end of the corral.

"Now they're enjoying that," owner and trainer Carl Bilbrey said as he watched the pair in their new setting.

"I'm well-pleased to see the mules here," Bilbrey said. "I can see they'll be given a good home and taken care of."

Pat and Jane will take the place of a pair retired to Saint John's Academy in Salina, Kan. The mules, Captain and Lieutenant, retired after Captain began suffering from arthritis in her ankle joints. The pair will have a new, very light workload, hauling children in a wagon once or twice a

month for the children's camps, Roller said.

Pat and Jane will join the 17 horses and 15 Soldiers that make up the mounted color guard commanded by Capt. Cayla Slusher. As part of the mounted unit, the pair will be hitched to a replica of an 1871 Army Escort Wagon during ceremonies, parades and other community events, Slusher said.

She added that Roller will oversee the initial training of the mules with the Soldiers before they begin touring throughout the Midwest with the color guard.

The unit is currently searching for cavalry-appropriate names to give Pat and Jane, who were purchased through government channels, Slusher said.

"They are part of showcasing Fort Riley's cavalry history," she said. "They were chosen with standards that go along with that."

The pair is a special one, Roller explained. "When you have to take a second look, you know that's when an animal is special," he said about the mules that received many second looks from staff at the Kansas State Veterinary School when they went for a pre-purchase check-up.

Bilbrey, who has handled 100 pairs in the past two years, said Pat and Jane are a special team. He noted that his 82-year-old father said he "always looked for a pair like this, and if they don't have a good home (at Fort Riley), bring them back."

"I look forward to seeing them in action," Slusher said. "They enhance what we do, which is pay tribute to the cavalry of old."

Upon leaving Tennessee, Bilbrey said he had a little talk with the mules and told them, "You're in the Army now. Shape up."

Death benefits, insurance go up

By Sara Wood
AFPS

WASHINGTON — Compensation for the survivors of servicemembers who die in combat zones and insurance coverage for servicemembers will increase significantly this year, a military pay official said July 7.

An increase in death gratuity benefits from \$12,500 to \$100,000 already has taken effect, and Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance maximum coverage will increase to \$400,000 starting Sept. 1, said Air Force Col. Virginia Penrod, director of military compensation.

The increase in death benefits took effect May 11 and is dated retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001, Penrod said.

This means that survivors of servicemembers who died between Oct. 7, 2001, and May 11, 2005, will receive the increased benefits, as will survivors of servicemembers who die from May 11 on, she said.

The increased benefits are for survivors of servicemembers who die in combat zones, combat operations and combat-related situations, she said.

Combat-related situations can include airborne duty, combat training, demolition duty and training exercises, among other things, she said.

A policy designating combat areas and situations was given to the individual services in June, and each service is now reviewing cases.

Payments already have begun, but the process of identifying and paying all eligible survivors could take several months, she said.

When the increase in SGLI coverage takes effect Sept. 1, it also will be dated retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001, she said.

Survivors of servicemembers who died in a combat zone, combat operations or combat-related situations between the October date and Sept. 1 will receive \$150,000 in transitional insur-

ance, which will bring them to the \$400,000 level, she said.

In addition to the increased coverage, DoD will pay premiums of \$150,000 for servicemembers involved in combat operations or deployed to a combat zone, Penrod said.

The increase of these two benefits came about as a result of a 2004 study evaluating the adequacy of death benefits for servicemembers, she said.

The study found that benefits were adequate, but didn't recognize the unique sacrifice made by servicemembers who die in combat situations, she said.

"There was concern that we weren't recognizing direct sacrifice of life in service to our nation," she said. "That's how the increase was made for those particular situations."

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, July 22, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 13

Sports news in brief

Prairie Run set for July 23

The Fort Riley Prairie Run consists of three different races, a 10-mile, five-mile and two-mile race. Each race is open to the Fort Riley military community and the general public.

The race is scheduled for July 23. It will start and finish at King Field House.

The five- and 10-mile races will begin at 7 a.m. and the two-mile race will begin at 7:10 a.m.

The registration fee is \$12. The 10-mile race will be used to determine the members of an active duty team to represent Fort Riley at the Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C.

For rules and qualification information, contact the Fort Riley Sports Office at 239-2172.

The registration form is available under the fitness link on the Fort Riley Web site, <http://www.riley.army.mil>.

Royals offer discount tickets

The Kansas City Royals will offer discounted tickets to any member, friend or associate of military communities in the state when they play the Oakland Athletics at 6:10 p.m. Aug. 6.

Field Plaza tickets cost \$13, View Box tickets cost \$8 and Outfield Plaza and View Level Infield tickets cost \$6.

For more information and tickets, contact Stephen Edwards at (719) 265-5587 or (719) 216-2132 or via e-mail at steved51@yahoo.com.

Ticket orders must be placed by July 22.

Gymnasts offered camp

Child and Youth Services is offering a summer gymnastic camp Aug. 1-5.

Campers must be registered with CYS, have a current sports physical and must sign up before the start of camp.

For more information, call 239-4847.

Staff plans canoe trips

The Outdoor Recreation Center staff will be offering canoe trips July 30 and Aug. 20. Each trip will start at 9 a.m. and participants will be home around 3 p.m.

The \$15 fee includes canoe, paddles, life vest and transportation to and from the Outdoor Recreation Center.

For more information or to register, call 239-2363.

Sports, swim activities slated

July 25, 27 - 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Cardio Pump Aerobics
July 25, 28 - Noon to 1 p.m., Fitness Yoga

July 26 - 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., PT Power Time
July 22 - 8 to 10 p.m., Family Fun Night at Custer Hill Pool

July 30 - Old Wooden Bat Softball Tournament
Fridays - 7 to 10 p.m., and **Saturdays** - 6 to 8 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m., open session roller skating, Riley Wheels Skating Rink at King Field House

Sundays - 2 to 4 p.m., family skate session, \$1 per family member, Riley Wheels Skating Rink

For more information, call 239-2813.

Campers battle for World Cup title

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

It was a World Cup for the history books. Underdogs Brazil and Japan knocked off the top-seeded United States and No. 2 Cuba to meet in the finals July 15. After an intense battle and a 1-1 tied-game, Brazil took the crown, outscoring Japan 2-1 in penalty kicks. And it all happened on the soccer fields at Colyer Manor, the culmination of a week-long All About Soccer camp

on post. Playing in teams of four, camp participants sported hand-decorated T-shirts representing various countries around the world. Qualifying games earlier in the morning determined each team's place in the single-elimination "World Cup Tournament."

After several rounds of intense soccer in the summer heat, Brazil's J.D. Dotson, Brandon Draper, Taylor Dunphy, Seth Goodwin and Jared Parker met Japan's Jacob

Elliott, Taylor Leblanc, John Simpson and Nicholas Young in the final game.

Both teams shared possession of the ball and knocked off a few shots at goal, but it was Japan who scored the first strike, making it a 1-0 game.

With time almost expired, Brazil struck back to tie the game.

Neither team made another goal, so the winner was determined by penalty kicks. Japan put

See World Cup, Page 15



"Germany's" Rory Haly kicks the ball on his way down while the "United States'" Joey Aguilar tries to defend in tournament play July 15. Post/Blackmon

Outta my way



Mike Delgado, of Troop D, 4th Cav., slides into and nearly knocks down 172nd Chem. Co.'s second baseman, Tanya Posillico during the Cavalry's 8-5 victory July 14. Post/Blackmon

Cavalry charges back to defeat 172nd, 8-5

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

The ballgame could have belonged to either team - until the bottom of the sixth inning. Troop D, 4th Cavalry, threw their saddle on the 172nd Chemical Company and broke their opponents' 4-2 lead with six runs that won them the game, 8-4 in company-level play July 14.

The Cavalry charged ahead in the first inning with a 2-0 lead.

The Chemical players responded by scoring a run at the top of the second inning but a snagged pop fly sent them back onto the field, where they stymied the Cavalry offense, holding them scoreless through the bottom of the second inning.

The game took a positive turn for the 172nd when a bad throw to the first baseman allowed the Chemical player to

turn a single into a double. Two more singles put the 172nd on the scoreboard, tied for the lead.

The Cavalry failed to rally under the 172nd's tough defense and went back to the pasture after three batters were retired in sequence.

The 172nd continued to hold the upper hand offensively and seized a 4-2 lead with two runs at the top of the sixth inning. A tag-out at third base ended the 172nd's time at the plate.

The Cavalry charged in the bottom of the sixth inning, batting through their whole line-up to score six runs at the bottom of the sixth. When the sixth inning came to an end, Cavalry had secured their lead, 8-4.

The 172nd scored a run at the top of the seventh inning after a batter hit a triple, but were unable to grasp Cavalry's 8-5 lead before they received their final out at first base to end the game.



Steve Grigg of Troop D, 4th Cav., slides into the tag of 172nd Chem.'s catcher, Rondel Dunmore, during the teams' match-up July 14. Post/Blackmon

Soldiers prevail at national pistol matches

By Paula J. Randall-Pagan
Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. - Soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit brought home several trophies from the annual National Pistol Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, July 12-16. About 700 pistol shooters from around the country competed in these matches.

The USAMU Service Pistol Team of Sgt. 1st Class Roger C. Jacobson, Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Rose, Staff Sgt. Adam E. Sokolowski, Sgt. Robert S. Park II and Sgt. Keith A. Sanderson placed second among 101 teams in the Team National Championship.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles E. Coffey was the team captain and Sgt. Brian W. Rost was the coach. The Army Team finished only

five points behind the winner and beat the third-place team by 31 points.

The Team National Championship is an aggregate of the .22-caliber, 45-caliber and Center Fire team matches.

The Army Pistol Team won the Center Fire National Team Championship. Shooters were Jacobson, Sokolowski, Park and Sanderson.

The USAMU Team of Rose, Sokolowski, Park and Sanderson and finished fourth overall and won the High Master Service Division in the .22-caliber Team National Championship.

The 45-caliber Team Championship was canceled because of inclement weather.

In the Service Pistol National Team Match - the USAMU Team of Sokolowski, Park, Staff Sgt. John C. Ennis and Spc. Sean P. Watson got the No. 2 spot, missing

first place by three points.

Ennis won the High Master Service Division in the National Pistol Championship; Sanderson took second place; and Rose finished third.

The Center Fire National Championship went to Ennis, who also took the Center Fire National Match Course Match. Staff Sgt. Robert M. Mango came in second in the Center Fire Timed Fire Match.

Sanderson took third place in the .22-caliber National Championship. He won the .22-caliber Rapid Fire Match and took second place in the .22-caliber Slow Fire Match, in which Sokolowski got third place. Sokolowski also took second place in the .22-caliber National Match Course Match.

In the 45-caliber Rapid Fire Match, Sanderson got second place and Park finished third. Pvt. Christopher J. Jones took

third place in Excellence in Competition National Trophy Individual Pistol Match.

Park was awarded the U.S. Forces Command Trophy for being the highest active duty Army finisher in the National Trophy Individual and National Trophy Team matches.

He also finished in second place for three trophies: The General Mellon Trophy, which is awarded to the highest scoring Army shooter in the National Trophy Pistol Team Match; the Military Police Corps Trophy, which goes to the highest scoring individual in the National Trophy Pistol Team Match; and the General Custer Trophy, for the overall winner in the National Trophy Individual Pistol Match.

Paula J. Randall-Pagan serves as public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Accessions Support Brigade.





Post/Blackman

MEDDAC's Francisco Bernal (far left) and Matthew Dubois, and Btry. A, 1st Bn., 5th FA's, Catcher William "Crazy Squirrel" Hendry (69), look at umpire Paul MacDonald for the call after Dubois slid home in company-level play July 14. MEDDAC defeated Btry. A, 19-12.

July 14 game scores:

The 300th MP team slid by Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., 13-12.
The 10th ASOS team had an undefeated night after they defeated the 15th Finance 12-10, and then received a forfeit from Det. D, 15th PSB.
The 383rd Regt. team nudged by Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., 14-13.
The 15th Finance team balanced out 1st Maint. Co., 17-14.
Battery A, 1st Bn., 5th FA, crushed 172nd Chem. Co. 22-3.
MEDDAC handed Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. their second loss of the evening, 16-3.
Company C, 1st Eng. team held off Co. B, 101st FSB, 6-5.
The 1st Maint. Co. knocked down Co. A, 1st Bn., 5th FA, 19-6.
The 300th MP team won their second game by Det. D, 15th PSB's, second forfeit of the evening.

By Tim Hippy

Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Former Army World Class Athlete Program baseball pitcher Maj. Steve Reich, one of 16 servicemen killed June 28 when an MH-47D Chinook helicopter was shot down by enemy fire in eastern Afghanistan, was one of dozens of WCAP Soldiers waging the War on Terrorism.

Reich was one of eight members of the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, who, along with eight Navy SEALs, were aboard the chopper that crashed in the mountains near Pakistan's border during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was serving his fourth tour of duty in Afghanistan.

A 1993 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., Reich was a pitcher for USA

Baseball's 1993 national team. He holds Army records for career strikeouts (259) and innings pitched (260 2/3).

Reich entered the Army's World Class Athlete Program in 1995 to train for the 1996 Olympic baseball team trials. WCAP is designed to give elite Soldier-athletes an opportunity to compete in the Olympics and in world and national championships in numerous sports.

The program provides Soldier-athletes as goodwill ambassadors for sporting events throughout the world and it helps the Army with recruiting and retention, said Paulette Freese, WCAP manager of the Army Community and Family Support Center.

Athletes in the program, however, live by the motto "Soldiers first."

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, at least 25 WCAP athletes have deployed to Iraq and

Afghanistan beside their brothers and sisters in arms.

"I just think that we had a special opportunity that had a timeline on it, and I was real competitive at the times that I didn't deploy," said WCAP wrestler 1st Lt. Dominic Black. "I was doing something special, but at the same time, I was awaiting my turn to go to a unit that was going to deploy. The biggest thing was to know that when it was my time, I was going to go."

Black eventually chose airborne school at Fort Benning, Ga., instead of a trip to Athens, Greece, to serve as Kerry McCoy's training partner for the 2004 Summer Olympics.

"I was feeling pretty hoah," said Black, who had served as McCoy's training partner in the 2000 Olympics at Sydney, Australia. "I was pretty fired up. I came back from airborne school and deployed 30 days later.

"I have no regrets about it ... I was ready to take whatever challenge just to see how effective I could be."

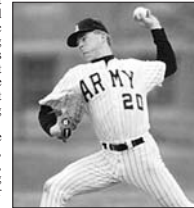


Photo courtesy of U.S. Military Academy

Steve Reich pitches a baseball game for West Point. He was a member of the Army World Class Athlete Program before his death June 28.

Schumacher wins Mile-High Nationals

By Chris Dorato

Army News Service

DENVER — Behind the efforts of Top Fuel driver Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher, the U.S. Army NHRA Racing Team marched to its third straight victory in the Mopar Mile-High Nationals at Bandimere Speedway July 17.

After U.S. Army Pro Stock Motorcycle pilots Antron Brown and Angelle Sampey won in successive races, Schumacher followed suit in the thin air of the

Rocky Mountains. Brown almost provided the U.S. Army a "double up" victory, but came up just short in the finals, while Sampey suffered a close first-round loss in eliminations.

With his victory over Morgan Lucas, Schumacher reclaimed the Top Fuel points lead from Doug Kalitta. He's now 20 points up heading for the CARQUEST Auto Parts Nationals at Pacific Raceways outside of Seattle July 23-24.

"To come out here to a place we've never won at and turn in the kind of performance that we did is

just outstanding," said the 2004 NHRA POWERade Top Fuel world champion. "I'm ecstatic that we were able to deliver another victory to our hard-working Soldiers."

Schumacher disposed of Don Sosenka, Doug Herbert and Cory McClenathan en route to his meeting with Lucas. He then turned in a 4.617-second pass at a track record speed of 331.45 mph to claim his fourth win of the year and the 25th of his career.

"Alan Johnson (his crew chief) is just incredible," added Schumacher. "When you get to the

finals against him, you better come loaded for bear. Now, we have to take this momentum on to Seattle."

Despite dropping a close final-round race to Ryan Schnitz, Brown moved to within one point of Pro Stock Motorcycle leader, G.T. Tonglet.

"This U.S. Army team worked extremely hard this weekend and the results were there," he said. "We've been cutting away at that lead for some time now and we're just about there. We're bound and determined to get it sooner than later."



Team Japan's John Simpson (front) and Jacob Elliott (center, back) grimace after Brazil's J.D. Dotson (right) scored a goal in the World Cup finals July 15. Dotson's goal tied the game. Brazil went on to win after outscoring Japan 2-1 in penalty kicks.

Post/Blackmon



World Cup

continued from page 13

one in the goal, but Brazil made two of its kicks to take the World Cup title.

The winners received soccer balls after the game.

The All About Soccer camp was designed to help players develop skills and confidence in the sport, said Frank Alonso, the local coordinator and camp staff member.

Camp participants said they learned several new techniques to apply on and off the field.

"I learned that you should make decisions as a team and not individuals," said Patricia Counts.

"I learned how to pass the ball more effectively and to fake it and do L-cuts. I learned how to juggle it on my knee and head, too," said Christian McKim. "I also learned lifelong lessons like if you control the ball you control the score. You can apply that in life: that if you control your life, you control your destiny."



Post/Blackmon

Soccer camp participants run through a banner supporting the Cuba team following the World Cup tournament.

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Leisuretime ideas

Manhattan:

What: Kansas Shrine Bowl. The parade will have band members, football players, and all types of parade units from all of the five Shrine Temples across Kansas. The football players must be seniors in high school and are picked by coach's across Kansas.
When: Parade 10 a.m., game 7 p.m. July 29-30
Where: Wagner Field, Kansas State University
Phone: (785) 776-8829
Admission: charge for game

Anthony:

What: Anthony Downs. 101st running of horse and greyhound races.
When: 5:30 p.m. July 22; 2 p.m. July 23-24
Where: Anthony Race Track
Phone: (620) 842-3796
Admission: \$1 and \$3

Haddam:

What: Haddam Frontier Days. Basketball tournament, sand volleyball, parade, frontier olympics, dance and barbecue.
When: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 23 and 24

Where: Downtown
Phone: (785) 778-3401
Admission: Free

Kansas City:

What: Wiener Dog Nationals. Sixty-four vertically challenged dachshunds racing for glory.
When: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 31
Where: 9700 Leavenworth Road, Woodlands
Phone: (913) 299-9797 or (800) 695-7223
Admission: Free

El Dorado:

What: Summer Splash. A two-day event for persons with disabilities to participate in water-based recreation, boating and skiing.
When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 22-23
Where: El Dorado State Park, Bluestem Point Campground
Phone: (316) 634-3404
Admission: \$6.50 per vehicle

Hutchinson:

What: 49th Annual Hutchinson Nationals. Auto racing action for everyone on dirt track.
When: 7:30 p.m. July 28-30

Where: 2000 N. Poplar, Kansas State Fairgrounds
Phone: (316) 755-1781
Admission: Varies

Atwood:

What: Lake Atwood 10-Mile Race. Oldest road race in Kansas.
When: 7 a.m. July 25
Where: Lake Atwood Atwood, KS 67730
Phone: (785) 626-3214
Admission: Free

Caldwell:

What: Sumner County Demolition Derby
When: 6 p.m. July 30
Where: Rodeo Grounds, West Central
Phone: (620) 845-2561
Admission: \$5

Belleville:

What: Midget Nationals. One of the biggest midget events in the country drawing the best cars and drivers around.
When: 7:30 p.m. July 28-30
Where: Republic County Fairgrounds, Belleville High Banks
Phone: (785) 527-2488
Admission: Varies

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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, July 22, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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Community news briefly

Students can now enroll

All Geary County Unified School District 475 students, which include Fort Riley residents, should be receiving mail-in enrollment packets for the upcoming school year. Enrollment information should be submitted and fees paid by Aug. 1.

New elementary student enrollment will be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 3 at each school. Enrollment for new middle school students (grades six through eight) will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 3 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 4 at each school.

Enrollment for new high school students will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 4 and 4 to 7 p.m. Aug. 9 and 11 at the school.

Army Soldier Show coming

The 2005 U.S. Army Soldier Show comes to the Fort Riley area Aug. 3 and 4. Sixteen of the Army's most talented Soldiers will perform in a high-energy family-friendly music and dance production guaranteed to entertain everyone in the audience.

Show time is 7 p.m. each day at Kansas State University's McCain Auditorium. Admission is free. Tickets are available at the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office across the parking lot from the Main Post Exchange on Fort Riley.

Library opens pages on fun

Cows are the featured animals during July's 1:30 p.m. Saturday storytimes for children two and older.

In "Two Cool Cows," on July 23, Millie and Maude borrow some brand-new black button-back boots, all the better for jumping, and head to the nearest mountaintop to make their big attempt to jump over the moon.

The July 30 storytime will feature "Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type." When the dairy cows discover an old typewriter in the barn, Duck helps them type up a list of demands for Farmer Brown. When he refuses, the cows go on strike until he provides them with electric blankets for those chilly nights on the farm.

The Post Library is located on Custer Hill in Building 5306. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The library is closed on Mondays.

For more information, call Victoria Martin at 239-5305.

Support center classes posted

July 22 - 8:30 a.m. to noon, Spouse Orientation
July 25 - Noon to 3 p.m., Spouse Activity Day

For more information, call the Soldier and Family Support Center at 239-9435.

Auto repair class slated

An advanced auto repair class is scheduled at the Fort Riley Automotive Skills Center on Custer Hill from 6 to 7 p.m. July 28.

For more information, call the Automotive Skills Center at 239-9764.

Surviving families get housing extension

By Joanna P. Hawkins
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Some surviving family members of service members killed in action are receiving an extension on the time they are allowed to continue receiving basic allowance for housing or remain in government quarters rent-free.

Congress recently extended the duration from 180 to 365 days, said Col. Gerald Barrett, chief of

the Compensation and Entitlements Division in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff Army G1.

The extension applies only to the surviving dependents of those Soldiers who die on or after May 11, 2005. Dependents of those Soldiers who died before that date continue to be entitled to the BAH benefits for 180 days from the date of the Soldier's death.

"This extension allows us to help relieve the stress that a family is going through after the loss of their servicemember. The last

thing they need to be thinking about is where they are going to live," Barrett said.

But, the extension authority expires on Sept. 30, 2005, unless it is authorized by the 2006 fiscal year National Defense Authorization Act, which sets the priorities of the Department of Defense.

The Army plans to "work this hard" to make the extension permanent, according to a written message from Gen. Richard A. Cody, vice chief of staff of the Army.

Soldiers married to another Soldier are not entitled to receive the extension payment on behalf of the deceased Soldier because they would be entitled to receive BAH in their own right. They would also qualify for family quarters if they have dependents.

BAH is based on geographic duty location, pay grade and dependency status and is intended to provide uniformed service members equitable housing compensation based on housing costs in local civilian housing markets.

It is payable when government quarters are not provided.

"Surviving family members should contact their casualty assistance officer for more information on the BAH extension and guidance on how to complete the required claim form."

"The Army is about people and we take care of our people. We want to do everything we can to take care of our folks. That doesn't only mean the Soldiers, but it means their families also," Barrett said.

Fairy tale



Post/Perrin

Older Clara (Emily Hogan) reacts to Rumpelstiltskin's (Amy Moore) demands during the performance of the favorite fairy tale "Rumpelstiltskin" July 16 at the Fort Riley Teen Center.

Youth perform after week of preparation

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

A few brief pauses to remember lines and a backdrop that fell to the floor couldn't deter the young actors from delivering an entertaining performance of a well-known fairy tale July 16.

A week of hard work and commitment came to an end at Fort Riley's Teen Center when family and friends gathered at the center to applaud the performance of the 50 first-through 12th-graders appearing in "Rumpelstiltskin."

Auditions for the performance were July 11. Rehearsals took place July 11-15 followed by performances at 3 and 7 p.m. July 16.

The performance was directed by Chelle Robinson and Lauren Dobbins Webb of the Missoula Children's Theatre of Missoula, Mont. The pair travels to different locations each week to conduct a

weeklong play program. The program includes five days of rehearsals followed by two performances. The organization has 37 traveling teams conducting 10 different shows, said Dobbins Webb.

The parts cast for the play were Rumpelstiltskin, young and old Claras, King Whatsat, a jester, wizards, grumpy gnomes, knights, villagers and busy bees. Three assistant directors also were selected. All the children who auditioned for the performance were selected for a part, Robinson said.

The performance was based on the childhood fairy tale "Rumpelstiltskin" by Albert Evans. The performance varied in parts from the original.

In Evans' story, the king married Clara after she spun straw into gold for the third time. In the performance by the Missoula Children's Theatre, the king is married to



Post/Perrin

Gnomes display their virtues that state on the signs that they must always be "Truthful and Cheerless."

See Page, Page 21

Marriage and Military Life

Adjusting support payments for Reservists

About the author

Gene-Thomas Gomulka is a retired Navy chaplain and author of "The Survival Guide for Marriage in the Military," available at www.plaintec.net

Have a question? Write Gene-Thomas at letters@plaintec.net



Dear Gene-Thomas,

Five years after leaving active duty, I was recalled as a reservist and am now having a hard time while deployed reducing my child support payments that are based upon what I was earning as a civilian. Frustrated by the lack of support I am experiencing in resolving this matter, I feel betrayed by the military and our courts.

— David

Dear David,

After serving on active duty for 24 years as a chaplain, I thought I dealt with every problem in the book. Today, I realize that there are

problems surfacing that were either nonexistent or much smaller in scope in the past. If the military hopes to continue to recruit men and women into the reserves, it will need to address and solve

problems such as yours, particularly now that large numbers of reservists have been recalled to active duty to serve for extended periods of time in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Reservists experiencing a reduction in monthly income may wish to contact their child support office to request a review and modification of their child support orders."

See Reservists, Page 20

AAFES readies 110th 'party'

Exchange to celebrate birthday

By Judd Anstey
AAFES

DALLAS — Beginning July 23, Post Exchange and Base Exchange facilities everywhere will honor the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's 110th anniversary with a wide variety of sales, promotions and sweepstakes. Prizes during the three-day celebration will range from candy bars to a 2005 Chevrolet Cobalt.

"Local events will vary from location to location," said AAFES Commander Maj. Gen. Bill Essex. "I expect to see price cuts of \$1.10, prizes for the first 110 customers in the exchange and lots of prizes of \$1.10 and \$110. Every day of the celebration will bring a new host of events and attractions for troops and their loved ones."

The War Department issued General Order number 46 on July 25, 1895. It directed post commanders to establish an exchange at every post where practicable. Since the first formal exchanges were established, an exchange system has served side-by-side with Soldiers. Since 1947, AAFES has served customers from tents and trucks in the field and in permanent facilities, on posts and bases around the world.

Today, AAFES provides support to 11.5 million authorized customers without regard to where they may be stationed. AAFES has more than 3,100 facilities in 49 states and more than 35 countries. AAFES brings a bit of home to troops with 55 stores in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and has about 450 associates deployed at any given time. All of these associates live and work alongside the deployed troops they serve.

"AAFES has long been a vital part of the services' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs and a partner with the military in providing for the everyday needs of Soldiers, Airmen and their families," Essex said. "AAFES' mission is basically the same as it was in 1895: to provide quality goods and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support MWR programs."

About 67 percent of AAFES' earnings historically go to MWR programs. In the past 10 years, AAFES has contributed \$2.3 billion to the Armed Forces to spend on quality of life improvements for troops and their families, including libraries, sports programs, swimming pools, youth activities, tickets and tour services, bowling centers, hobby shops, music programs, outdoor facilities and unit functions.





Programs help students cope with transitions

By Rudi Williams

AFPS

WASHINGTON — It's a daunting and scary experience when school-age children wake up one morning realizing that they're in a strange new place, and, except for their family, they don't know anyone at all.

They don't have any friends, no peers to talk with and don't know anything about the school they're about to enter, the neighborhood they live in, or the community they just moved into.

That's the dilemma of hundreds of military-connected students every time their parents move to different assignments around the world. Because of the frequent problematic situations for teenagers, the Military Child Education Coalition created an innovative program called "Student to Student," or S2S, to help solve the problem.

Paul Callen, S2S project director, and a team of school counselors, students and school liaison officers featured the program during MCEC's recently completed 7th annual conference in Washington, D.C.

"For the conference, there were 10 teams of two students each from 10 schools around the country," Callen, a retired Army colonel, said. "Most teams were made up of a male and female stu-

dent between the grades of sophomore and senior year."

Callen said students were brought to the conference to showcase S2S programs they've implemented at their schools. He noted they would give conferees a taste of passion, commitment and belief in their programs. The students performed skits of their schools' S2S programs for the 550 conferees.

Starting with six schools last year, the S2S program has grown to 51 schools across the country in just one year. Most are public schools on or near military installations.

Callen said educators, administrators and military officials found out that the S2S program is a great benefit to them and the schools.

"It raises the reputation of the school and the community as a comfortable place and welcoming place to be," he said. "It also makes them feel that they're doing something to help students when they first come in or when they leave. And that may prevent issues and problems or solve a lot of problems for the incoming or outgoing transitioning student."

Callen pointed to a high interest in S2S at the conference showing. "There seems to be a lot of need for it. Folks are really looking forward to implementing the program at their school," he noted.

He said S2S has no organizational boundaries, because each



AFPS/Williams

Students preformed skits about the Student-to-Student program at their schools during the Military Child Education Coalition seventh annual conference in Atlanta.

student has the same kinds of needs. "So people in all the services are affected by the same situations or have the same needs for the program," Callen added.

For schools concerned about program cost, Callen pointed out MCEC pays for the training, including transportation, lodging, supplies and equipment for the students and counselor or teacher.

"The only cost to the school is their commitment that says that once MCEC trains their students, the school will stay with the program, implement it, follow on and be accountable and responsible," he noted. "To do so, all the school needs is a teacher, counselor or a

volunteer and two students who would commit to running the program."

Schools that participate in S2S training are given an interactive counseling center computer device as part of the program, Callen said. "An ICC allows the school to connect with other schools around the world that have the ICC computer device."

ICC is a Web-based videoconferencing system that allows families and educational counselors to exchange information between sending and receiving schools.

"I think the S2S program is the answer to a lot of issues and problems with transition when we talk

about touching students' lives and really reaching out to them," Callen said. "I think the program builds student leadership, makes students leaders."

Callen noted the program caters not only to issues students have at new assignments, but also to helping students getting ready to leave a place they know.

The Student-to-Student program meets transitioning student's critical needs, either coming to or going from a new assignment," Callen noted. "Students we've trained become trainers of new students coming in."

The three greatest needs transitioning students have are finding their way around a new school, making relationships and good friends, and also learning about the academic requirements for that school, he said.

During one skit at the conference, Sarah Ryan of Ridgeview High School in Columbia, S.C., told the audience, "Most of us have moved many, many times and we know how hard it is to make friends. We have a 2,300-student population, and it was hard for me to make new friends in such a big school as Ridgeview."

Amanda Feathers, an incoming senior at Hopkinsville (Ky.) High School, said, "Our school has over 1,000 students with 40 percent being military dependents. Our school borders Fort Campbell Army base, 'Home of the 101st

Airborne,'" Feathers said in unison with her schoolmate, Lavar Weston. "One of the hardest things to do when you come into a new school is to make friends," Weston said. "We try to make everybody feel like they're part of the family when they come to our school. One of the hardest things to do is build trust in other people."

Feathers and Weston demonstrated different games they play to put new students at ease, including academics as a television game show.

Ryan Howry of Central Kitsap High School, Silverdale, Wash., is the daughter of a Navy chief warrant officer. "I have moved four times—California, Hawaii, Mississippi and Washington," she said. "In those four places, the cultures are completely different. When I lived in California and Hawaii, I was a minority. It was a completely Asian culture. I grew up in that, and that's what I knew. Then when I was in Mississippi I was like, 'Wow, this is weird. There's a lot of white people at my school.'"

"That's a culture shock," Howry continued. "You walk into a new school with a different culture and a different way of doing things, and you're like, 'Oh, no, what's going on here?' That really freaks me and my brothers and sisters out a little bit... It's like stepping on an alien planet and saying, 'Hi! Who are you?' And everyone speaks a different language," she said.

Reservists

continued from page 19

Unfortunately, accomplishing this task, as you indicate, is not always easy. In an article entitled "Divorce and Child Support are Eviscerating Military Recruitment," David Usher reports how less than 5 percent of activated reservists are able to obtain the support modifications suggested by the ACF.

He cites the example of Gordon Dollar, a reservist for 16 years, whose military record was tainted when 60 percent of his military pay was incorrectly garnished by the Arizona Child Support Department. According to Usher, after appealing the injustice to the Ari-

zona Attorney General's Office, Dollar was informed that "it would take a year at the earliest to adjust support if they agreed it would be adjusted."

What happens in the course of a year when a recalled reservist's pay is insufficient to cover the child support payment that was based upon his much higher civilian salary? Most people unfamiliar with the child support system would think that a reservist could straighten the matter out once he returns from active duty. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

In an article entitled "Laws Must Protect the Rights of Military

Dads," Jeffrey Leving and Glenn Sacks point out that "the federal Bradley Amendment prohibits judges from retroactively modifying child support beyond the date which an obligor has applied for a modification." In cases where reservists are called up at the last minute and don't have time to file for a downward modification, the arrearages stay along with the interest and penalties charged on them.

According to Leving and Sacks, "A serviceman whose arrearage reaches \$5,000 can become a felon who can be incarcerated or subject

to a barrage of harsh civil penalties, including seizure of driver's licenses, business licenses and passports."

Although I am not in a position to get your child support office or the court to adjust your monthly child support payment, I can use this column to recommend that DoD use its fleet of lawyers to get states to follow the lead of Missouri that requires an automatic modification of support obligations for activated reservists. Unless other states institute this practice, recalled reservists with

child support obligations could face years of debt, legal battles and possible incarceration as long as the Bradley Amendment remains in place.

Reservists like yourself have a hard enough time fighting terrorists without having to expend energy and funds in battling the courts and your states. It's time DoD, military and governmental leaders work to ensure that your support payments are adjusted accordingly without bankrupting you or sending you to prison when you return after serving in harm's way.

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Community news briefly

BOSS to host post car show

Owners of "hot rides" are being invited to show their "wheels" at the Fort Riley car show being hosted by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers July 30 at Rally Point. Top "rides" can drive away with honors as best of show, best import, best domestic, best truck or best sound system. Registration fee is \$15 if done before July 22 and \$20 for those who register later. The day is free for spectators. For more information, call BOSS at 239-8147 and visit the Information, Ticketing and Registration office across from the Main PX to sign up.

Conference set at Morris chapel

Co-Pastor Josephine Urquhart of Leesville, La., will be ministering at the second annual women's conference sponsored by Fort Riley's Morris Hill Gospel Service Covenant Women at 7 p.m. Aug. 9 at the chapel, 8:30 a.m. Aug. 20 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Junction City and at 11 a.m. at the chapel. Theme for the conference is "Divine Intervention 4 A Victorious Attitude." Those who plan to attend are asked to call Lisa Ramsey at Morris Hill Chapel, 239-4814, or Carla Nwoga at (785) 717-2921.

Crafts center classes posted

July 24 - 1 to 4 p.m., Scrapbooking get-together
July 25 - Crochet, knitting and cross-stitch
July 25 and 26 - Intermediate and advanced stained glass (multi-session class)
July 26 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Wood class (Adirondack loungers and chairs)
July 29 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Ceramic mold pouring
For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

Teen Center activities set

July 22 - Pool party
July 23 - Worlds of Fun
July 29 - Movies in Manhattan
July 30 - Salina Wildlife Refuge trip
For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Youth Services posts schedule

July 22 - 1 to 4:30 p.m., Eisenhower Park, third through fifth grades
July 23 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Free child care for families of deployed Soldiers
July 27 - 1 to 3:30 pm, Call Hall at K-State, Kindergarten
July 29 - 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuttle Creek Park, first through fifth grades
For more information, call 239-9173.

Rally Point offers specials

July 22 - 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night, family friendly movie, music and buffet
July 24 - 7 p.m., WWE Pay-Per-View - The Great American Bash
July 27 - 5 to 9 p.m., Wednesday wing night
July 28 - 95-cent cheeseburger Night
July 29 - 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night, family friendly movie, music and buffet
For more information, call 784-5434.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.



Post/Perrin

Play continued from page 19

Queen Beatrice and Clara is required to turn the straw into gold twice. Clara's offerings also varied in the two performances. Clara offered the "strange man," who she later discovered to be "Rumpelstiltskin," her first-born child in the original story. In the version performed at Fort Riley, she offered her family's honeybee farm.

Refreshments were served following each performance and an awards ceremony followed the 7 p.m. performance. "We couldn't do it without the children being able to finish the play in just five days," Robinson announced to the crowd. Kirsten Asher, who played young Clara in the performance, said she enjoyed the play and would like to audition next year.

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

Page 22

America's Warfighting Center

Friday, July 22, 2005

Leisuretime ideas

At the movies:

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under age 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

July 22, 24 – Mr. & Mrs. Smith (PG-13)

July 23 – The Adventures of Shark Boy And Lava Girl (PG)

July 28 – The Honeymooners (PG-13)

July 29 – Batman Begins (PG-13)

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Milford:

What: Bluegrass & Old Time Music Festival. Camping, concessions, and great music.

When: 7 p.m. July 29, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. July 30

Where: 8811 State Park Road, Milford State Park
Phone: (785) 238-3014
Admission: \$20

Manhattan:

What: Arts in the Park, Little Apple Jazz Festival. Featuring The New Red Onion Jazz Babies, Midnight Blue Jazz Quartet, "El Mambo" DeLeon y su Grupo Candela and headliner Kevin Mahogany and an All-Star Big Band.

When: 5:30 p.m. July 23

Where: City Park
Admission: Free

What: Riley County 4-H Fair. 4-H and open class exhibits, parade, livestock, children's tractor pull, carnival, turtle races, and PRCA rodeo.

When: 6 p.m. to dark July 28, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 29 through Aug. 1

Where: C/Co Park, Riley County Fairgrounds
Phone: (785) 537-6350
Admission: Free

What: Kaw Valley PRCA Rodeo

When: 8 p.m. July 28-30

Where: Wells Arena, C/Co Park

Phone: (785) 776-0089
Admission: Gate prices are \$10 for reserved seating, \$7 for general seating and \$4 for children 12 and younger. ITR has \$5 military tickets for July 28.

Topeka:

What: Beyond Lewis and Clark: The Army Explores the West. This traveling exhibit marks the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition and its impact on the West.

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Aug. 14

Where: 6425 SW 6th Ave., Kansas Museum of History

Phone: (785) 272-8681
Admission: Adult \$4; Senior (60 and over) \$3; Student (K-12, college students with ID) \$2; Children 5 and under admitted no charge when accompanied by an adult

What: "Once Upon A Matress." Topeka Civic Theatre performance.

When: Dinner at 6 p.m., show at 8 p.m. through Aug. 6

Where: 3028 SW 8th Ave., Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy

Phone: (785) 357-5211
Admission: Show \$18, Dinner \$16

Lawrence:

What: Douglas County Free Fair. Live music, carnival, 4-H exhibits, demolition derby, antique tractor pull, and a variety of races and contests.

When: 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. July 23-31

Where: 21st and Harper, Douglas County Fairgrounds
Phone: (785) 843-7058
Admission: Free

Kansas City:

What: Wyandotte County Fair. Carnival, motorsports, animal booths and wonderful food.

When: All day July 29 through Aug. 6

Where: 1405 N. 98th St.
Phone: (913) 788-7898
Admission: Free

What: Russia Heritage Month Exhibit. Artifacts including costumes, artwork, history, and other items.

When: Noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through July 26

Where: 720 N. 4th St., Strawberry Hill Museum and Cultural Center

Phone: (913) 371-3264
Admission: \$5

Belleville:

What: NCK Free Fair. 4-H and open class, carnival, vendors and car races.

When: 8 a.m. to midnight July 26-30

Where: Republic County Fairgrounds
Phone: (785) 527-5554 or (877) 248-3462
Admission: Free

Wilson:

What: After Harvest Czech Festival. Authentic Czech foods, parade, softball tournaments, arts/crafts show, custom rod and car show, pageant, polka and square dances and flea market.

When: All day July 29-31

Where: Citywide
Phone: (785) 658-2211
Admission: Free

Nicodemus:

What: Emancipation and Homecoming Celebration. Annual celebration commemorating the freedom acquired through emancipation.

When: 8 p.m. July 29, 10 a.m. to noon July 30 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 31

Where: Main Street
Phone: (785) 421-2141
Admission: Free

Wichita:

What: World War II Display. Re-enactors of WWII story. Uniforms, guns, re-enactments, and cannons in the Plaza area.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1-31

Where: 835 E. 1st St., Museum of World Treasures

Phone: (316) 263-1311
Admission: Adult \$9.90; Senior \$6.90; Youth \$5.90

El Dorado:

What: El Dorado Prairie Port Festival. 21st annual pageant, country concert, arts and crafts, mud volleyball, parade, street dance and activities.

When: July 28-31

Where: Citywide
Phone: (316) 321-1841
Admission: \$4

'Git-r-done'



Photo by Kirk Voska

Bareback riding is one of seven events featured at the Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo in Abilene, Kan. This year celebrates the rodeo's 60th anniversary and will take place Aug. 3-6.

Rodeo tradition continues in Abilene

Special to the Post

ABILENE, Kan. — Preparations are under way for the 60th anniversary of the Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo in Abilene. This rodeo, voted three times as one of the top five outdoor rodeos in the nation, will take place Aug. 3-7.

"We're looking forward to another great rodeo show for fans," said Jerry Marsteller, rodeo committee president. "We want to celebrate our 60th with the best rodeo competition for cowboys

and the best entertainment for the fans."

Pro rodeo announcer Justin McKee of Lenapah, Okla., returns to Abilene as the man calling the play-by-play rodeo action. Fans will be familiar with McKee. He has been a Professional Bull Riders announcer on NBC TV.

Lecile Harris of Collierville, Tenn., who celebrates his 50th year in rodeo, makes a return trip to Abilene to tickle funny bones as the pro rodeo clown.

Bullfighters Casey Wells of Glendale, Ariz., and Dusty Brew-

er of Prairie du Chien, Wis., will provide bull riders protection from the National Finals Rodeo quality bucking bulls provided by Andrews Rodeo Co., Bagwell, Texas. Sammy Andrews also will provide the bucking horses.

New this year is the Flying Arena Stars. A trio of three women — Melissa Navarre of Weatherford, Okla., Lori Orman of Ottumwa, Iowa, and Beth Brown of Laramie, Wyo. — will team up to delight and amaze rodeo fans with their trick riding expertise.

With trick riding maneuvers like the Cossack death drag, the liberty stand, the hippodrome stand and the dangerous tail drag, these phenomenal trick riders are sure to put fans on the edge of their seats.

In honor of the rodeo's 60th anniversary, a special collection of scrapbooks full of six decades of rodeo memorabilia will be up for auction on Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m., in conjunction with the annual belt buckle auction. The auction will be held at the band shell West of the rodeo grounds.

If you go

The Aug. 3 performance is bull riding only.

Performances begin each day at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available in Abilene at the Central Kansas Free Fair Office, (785) 263-4570, Rittel's Western Wear, West's Country Mart, Auto Zone and Chamber of Commerce, First National Bank in Belleville, Pioneer Farm & Ranch, Solomon State Bank and Zey's Market.

For more information, visit www.wildbillhickokrodeo.com on the Web.



Jayne Miller rounds the barrels during the Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo in Abilene, Kan. The rodeo, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, will take place Aug. 3-6.
Photo by Kirk Voska

Flying Arena Stars to perform at rodeo

Special to the Post

ABILENE, Kan. — Rodeo fans attending the Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo this year will have a treat awaiting them. The specialty act for this year's rodeo is the Flying Arena Stars. The Flying Arena Stars is a group of three trick riding acts who perform at rodeos across the nation.

Melissa Navarre is the first of the three ladies who make up the trick-riding trio. Navarre, whose mother's family is the famed Beutler rodeo family, has been involved in rodeo and trick riding since she was a youngster. Her mother trick rode across the Midwest for 10 years.

Navarre's favorite trick-riding stunts are the hippodrome stand

and the dangerous tail drag. She is married to Professional Bull Riders competitor Corey Navarre. They make their home in Weatherford, Okla.

The second part of the Flying Arena Stars is Lori Orman. Orman, who became a mother for the first time earlier this year, started riding horses before she was 2 years old, and she's been horse crazy ever since. Her favorite riding tricks are the Cossack death drag, the liberty stand, the flying one-foot stand, the back breaker and the fender drag.

Orman, her husband, Mike, and their daughter make their home in Ottumwa, Iowa.

The third and final member of the Flying Arena Stars is Beth Brown. She has been trick riding

More info:

For more information, call the Central Kansas Free Fair Office at (785) 263-4570 or visit www.wildbillhickokrodeo.com

professionally for six years. Her trick-riding talent and skill were developed from eight years of gymnastics, six years of track competition and a natural ability with horses.

Brown is a full-time student at the University of Wyoming, pursuing a degree in biology and secondary education.

The Flying Arena Stars have been chosen to trick ride at some

of the most prestigious rodeos and events across the country. They have performed at the Great American Wild West Show, the National Harley Davidson Convention and the Belmont Horse Fair and Race, as well as rodeos like the Calgary Stampede in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nev.

Don't miss this action-packed, sequin-studded, glitter-dusted act! They will perform during all four performances of the Wild Bill Hickok Rodeo in Abilene. Performances begin nightly at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Central Kansas Free Fair Office, Rittel's Western Wear, and West's Country Mart.

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